

Module C Section 3
Identifying and Managing Risks
Quiz

1. In the case study about Philip, who should decide whether he rides the bull or not? As a Support Broker, what answer best assists getting people on the same page when it comes to risky behavior?
 - a) Ultimately Philip has the right to make the choice as to whether he will or will not ride the bull. You and others in his Circle of Support have the right to share your views about what the risk might entail. In this case, you have the right to tell Philip, as his friend, that riding the bull would be considered in your opinion an extreme risk because it has the potential to be life threatening. You also have the right to tell Philip that you will not be involved in his decision—that you will not help. However, you do not have the right to prevent Philip from making the decision.
 - b) If an activity is risky, you have every right to prevent it. Philip's body does not work so well, so it is your responsibility to make sure that he is safe. If he persists in pursuing risky activities, you might suggest that his Circle of Support meets with him to set up risk taking guidelines.
 - c) Risk is black and white. If you feel that an activity is dangerous, it is. If you feel that an activity is not dangerous, then it is not. This is not tricky. It is just a plain and simple "yes" you can do it or "no" you cannot. Do not let your employer try to make the situation harder than it is. Remember, risk is black and white.
 - d) Philip gets to make the decision and you should go along with it. You have to help him if he needs your help. You have to do what he says and if he says, "help me ride the bull," then you have to do it. Bottom line it is his choice and you are there to support him.
2. Paul is 22 years of age. He is living with his mother, but would like to look for an apartment and get a roommate his own age. Paul works on the grounds crew for the University. He works 10 to 15 hours a week. The other guys on the crew have invited Paul out for a beer after work. Paul would really like to go but his mother says he may not. Paul's cousin, Sam is Paul's age and has offered to go with him. However, his Mom is keeps saying no. As a Support Broker and Paul's advocate, what should you do? Select the one best answer.
 - a) In private suggest to Sam that he just take Paul to the bar on Friday and not tell Paul's mother. This is really no big deal. Once she realizes that going to the bar with the guys after work is not a real risk she will lighten up.
 - b) There is no right or wrong answer. But you might ask Mom to list out the things that she is fearful about. You might have her present those fears to Paul. Then have Paul list out the ways that he can be safe at the bar with

his friends. Ultimately, if Paul lives under his mother's roof she does have the right to say that Paul cannot go to the bar. Both parties have responsibility to give and take in this situation. Fostering open discussions is probably the best answer.

- c) Tell mom that she really does not have the right to tell her 22 year old son what he can and cannot do. He is of legal age and he should be able to do as he pleases. Teach her about the principles of Self-Determination. Ask her how she would like it if her mother tried to control her. If she gets angry at you, tell her that your role as a Support Broker is to protect the rights of your employer and if he wants to go the bar then you will make sure that it happens for him. Self-Determination is about doing whatever you want to do, regardless of what others think.
 - d) The mother is absolutely right. A person with a disability has no business going to a bar. What would happen if some drunken person picked a fight, tried to take advantage, or made fun of Philip. These are unacceptable scenarios. Mother's word must be honored. Just tell Philip that you support his mom, and you do not want to discuss the situation further.
3. Based on the following story, choose which answer BEST describes what you as a Support Broker should say to Larkin's father about the boating incident? Was poor judgment used?

Larkin is a 24 year old man who has Cerebral Palsy. This affects his arm movements and he uses a wheelchair for mobility. Larkin loves to drive. On a family vacation, Larkin and his father went on an amusement ride where individuals drive motor boats around a large lagoon. Larkin wanted his own boat and drove alone. His father followed in another boat. Because of Larkin's disability, his arms became very spastic and he was unable to steer the boat at one point. It looked like Larkin was going to drive himself full speed into the rocks. At the last moment, he was able to get control of the steering wheel and turned the boat.

- a) The decision to take Larkin on a boat that he drove on his own was one that I would not support. Even if Larkin persisted in wanting to do such a crazy thing I cannot support such foolish behavior. You said it yourself; you put him in a life or death situation. I will not tolerate that kind of decision making.
- b) What a fun story! I totally approve. Go for the gusto. I am entirely in favor of risk taking. The more excitement, the better life is.
- c) It is not your place to say much of anything at all. As a Support Broker you do not have the right to judge your employer or their Circle of Support. You are not the boss. Your role in this regard is to assist with the development of a plan that is conceived by Larkin's dreams and made possible by his Circle of Support. If there is a conflict around risk, then you have the role to mediate possible solutions.

- d) Suggest that next time Larkin and his father go on an outing that they have a chaperone.
- 4. Based on the scenario about Jeff, how might you best help Jeff and his family to overcome the fear that cooking is a dangerous activity?
 - a) Suggest that as a family they all watch cooking shows together. That way Jeff can live vicariously for awhile and his family can see that cooking can be fun. Jeff may learn something about safety as well.
 - b) Get the DDA to provide cooking classes for Jeff. Even if he does not want to go to the center for adult developmental therapy, you are convinced that this is the best way to help the situation.
 - c) Demand that Jeff be allowed to cook. Set up a cooking schedule and provide the supports necessary for Jeff to both grocery shop and cook the meals that he wants to cook. His brother is totally out of line.
 - d) Suggest that since cooking is important to Jeff, maybe it would be a good idea to allocate some of his funds to get support both learning to shop and cook. Perhaps he could start out cooking once a week for himself and as he learns and demonstrates his skill, he can spend increasingly more time in the kitchen. You may have to help Jeff's brother examine his fears about Jeff and risk. This process may take some time.
- 5. What is one of the biggest challenges facing Support Brokers?
 - a) Working with disagreeable clientele.
 - b) Working with families who get in the way of letting a person live his life.
 - c) Working with the Circle of Support around issues of risk and decision making.
 - d) Working for a system that does not support individual risk taking.